

BA 2062

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1867, 1898

HEREFORD

PRIVATE

This black congregation acquired land across from the white people's original colonial place of worship, Shaw's Meeting House, and Martin Conn, a white neighbor, donated the ground. St. Luke's met in the abandoned 1798 Shaw's Meeting House until completing their church. The new structure appears in the 1877 atlas as a small square next to a "colored school" map symbol and the cemetery is shown. In 1898, the Rev. L.A. Carter urged the congregation to remodel the church into its present form of two stories. This is a frame church in vernacular style, gable roofed with rubber shingle outer wall cover. The church is five bays deep with ordinary sash windows, but there are triangular lintels over each window frame to provide a "churchly" effect.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

16,810 Hereford Road

CITY, TOWN

Hereford

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☒ ACCESSIBLE  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME St. Luke's M.E. Church, Inc.

Telephone #: 357-4037

STREET &amp; NUMBER

16,810 Hereford Road

CITY, TOWN

White Hall

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21161

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: WPC 635

Folio #: 411

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## CONDITION

—EXCELLENT  
 XGOOD  
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
 —RUINS  
 —UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED  
 XALTERED

## CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE  
 —MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Luke's M.E. Church is a frame, gable-roofed, two-story structure of rectangular layout with vestiges of Victorian style. Since the building was enlarged after its initial construction, certain compromises have crept into its organization.

The northern extremity consists of a two-story, gable-roofed one-bay-deep entrance vestibule, with double-paneled doors at ground level, and a fairly recent outside stairway leading to a sheltered, flat-roofed entrance porch of concrete block that leads into the northwest corner of the second-story church assembly area. There is an opening in the gable peak of the vestibule for a round window, but it is presently filled with wood paneling.

The nave of the church is five bays deep, protected by its own gable roof, which has plain eaves that overhang both the ends and the side walls. Windows at first-story levels are double-hung sash types with 4-over-4 lights of plain glass. The window frames have lintels that form low-pitched triangles.

At second-story level, the area for church services, the same kind of sash windows are used. These are tall windows, and they are topped by triangular wooden pediments in what is an attempt to produce a "churchly" look, the appearance of the gothic where space and finances do not allow for lancet windows.

The rear of the building consists of a two-story, shed-roofed annex, one bay deep, with one more of the "churchly" windows in each side wall at the second-story level. At first-story level, two fixed windows of six lights each open in the rear wall. This annex, sanctuary or apse, is supported by three concrete piers, having no foundation.

The foundation under the nave is of stone.

The entire structure is covered with grey rubber siding imprinted with a brick pattern. There are tall, undecorated brick inside chimneys rising along both side walls between third and fourth bays from the front.

This church is perched on the shoulder of the old main road, and has a large, tree-shaded cemetery with numerous stones. Across the road is the even older, also tree-shaded cemetery, of the first church in the area—that church having moved to the main road more than a century ago.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| PREHISTORIC                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| 1400-1499                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                        |
| 1500-1599                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                      |
| 1600-1699                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 1700-1799                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                 |
| 1900-   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)                |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES 1867, 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Saint Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church is a black congregation that acquired land in 1867 (or 1865, per one authority) on the westside of present Old Hereford Road (actually an abandoned segment of the pre-turnpike route to York, Pennsylvania). The property was deeded by Martin Conn but never recorded. Conn was the builder of the exuberant gingerbread-era house on the southside of Monkton Road just east of the York Road (BA 931). The church site was opposite the white people's pioneer church in the Hereford area, Foster's Meeting House; the church across the road was the white congregation's second structure, shown as Shaw's Meeting House on Sidney's 1850 map. (1) Before building their own house of worship, the Hereford blacks used the abandoned log house of 1797; when there was no further use for the old building, it was taken to the "downtown" part of Hereford and used as a cobbler's shop and part of a tavern until it was demolished after 1900. (2)

The 1877 atlas shows a colored school and cemetery, plus another small square, which is probably the first church. (3) The school was probably one of those put up by private effort, because the Board of County School Commissioners was unable to meet the sudden demand for black schools and they only agreed to pay teachers' salaries for the first three decades after the Civil War. The board resolved on August 20, 1872, to establish a school, provided the building was furnished free, at Hereford and five other towns. (4)

In 1884, the Board of County School Commissioners desired to purchase part of the church and cemetery grounds for a school, or possibly to gain control of the existing school, and the trustees were unable to use the deed in their possession, because it had "never been recorded ..." and "has become illegible by reason of frequent handling thereof." (5) Therefore, Martha M. Conn and other legal heirs of Martin Conn, for a nominal \$5 executed a second deed, stating that the first deed had been made in 1867. The trustees named were Acquilla Wilson, Samuel Powell, George Nelson, Henry Gillage, and Nicholas Mays. The plot was to be used for "the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America and for a place of burial for the bodies of colored people."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1, ITEM 8, PAGE 2

## ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the deed from the trustees to the Board of County School Commissioners, signed on December 31, 1884, the congregation was called the "Foster Methodist Episcopal Church near Hereford." Presiding Elder was Edward W. S. Peck, and Preacher in Charge was the Rev. Richard Henry Adams. (6) The trustees only charged \$1.00 for the school lot.

In 1898, the Rev. L. A. Carter urged the congregation to remodel and rebuild the existing church into the two-story building that is in use today. This is the same pastor who promoted new structures at Gough and Pine Grove, two other churches on his circuit. (7)

In 1925, the church body was incorporated as St. Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church of Hereford, Baltimore County. (8) Following the incorporation, the individual trustees were able to convey the property to the corporation, which they did on September 18, 1926. That conveyance shows that Charles Y. Trigg was district superintendent and former presiding elder of the Baltimore and Washington Conference; Stephen W. Fields was pastor, and trustees were John I. Wilson, William Watkins, Samuel W. Williams, George Young, Edward Hill, Calvin Chetman, Albert Bryant, George Gray, and William Johnson. (9)

SCHOOL: The school south of this church, originally part of the church grounds, was rendered surplus in 1945 by the construction of a consolidated school, and the building was sold in June of 1947 to George Alex Bull and Beulah B. Bull, who later sold it. The school survives as a residence. (10) See report on site BA 2063.

## NOTES:

1. J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne, "Map of Baltimore City and County From Original Surveys," (Baltimore, 1850).
2. S. B. and C. E. Clemens, From Marblehill to Maryland Line (Monkton, Md., 1976), pp. 32, 34.
3. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Md. (Philadelphia, 1877), Seventh District plate.
4. Amy C. Crewe, No Backward Step Was Taken (Towson, 1949), pp. 206-208, 211.
5. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 143:555.
6. B.C. Deeds, JWS 180:165.
7. Clemens and Clemens, Marble Hill, p. 34.
8. Incorporations, WPC 8:15.
9. B.C. Deeds, WPC 635:411.
10. B.C. Deeds, JWB 1580:111.

BA-2062

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

S. B. and C. E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line  
(Monkton, Md., 1976)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.0**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Slightly irregular parcel, Tax Map 22, P286, fronting about 400 feet on westside of Hereford Road and about 75 feet on southside of Piney Hill Road.

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE NONE

COUNTY NONE

STATE

NONE

COUNTY

NONE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning &amp; Zoning

DATE

May 29, 1980

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

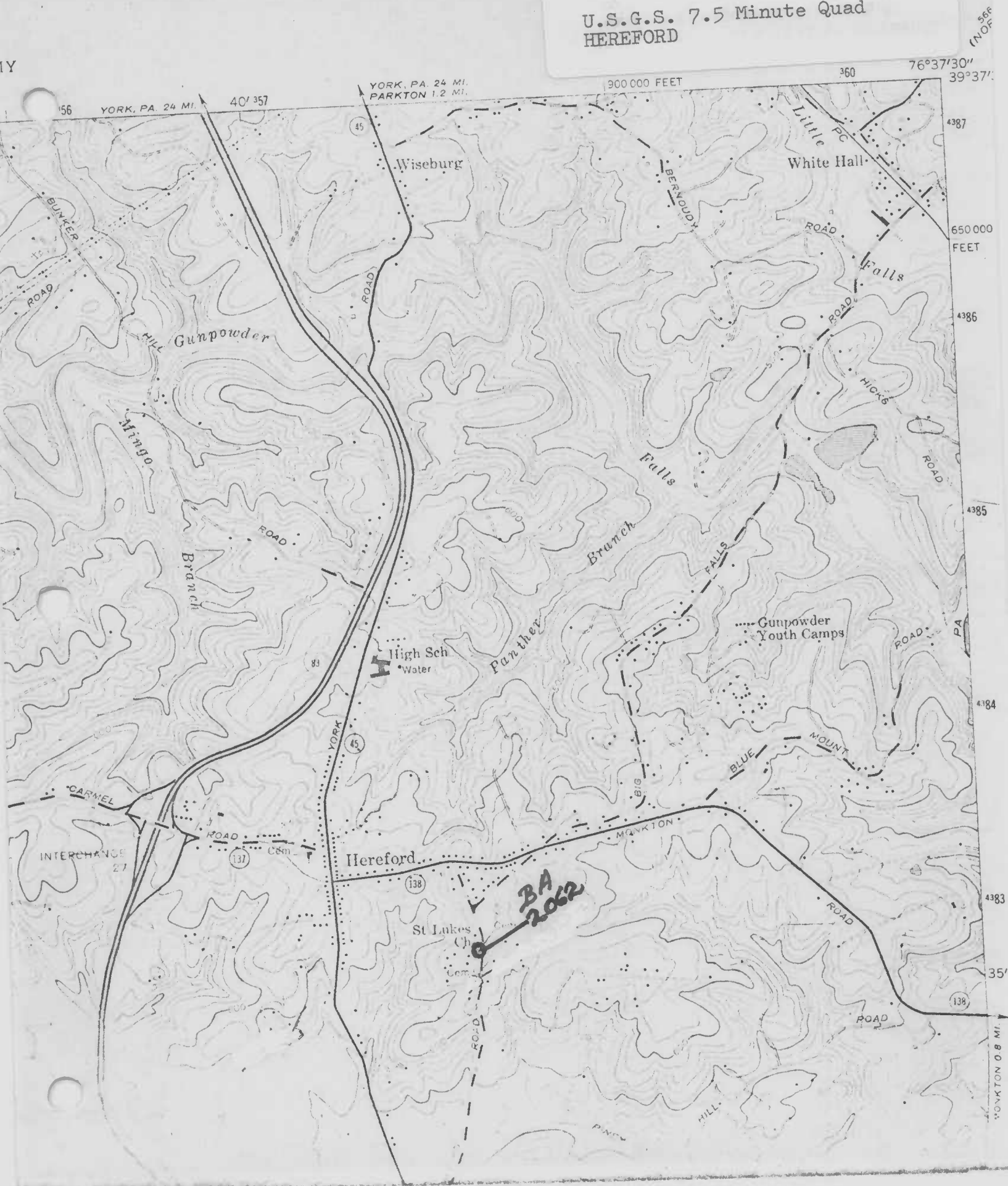
Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

ST. LUKES UNITED METH. CHURCH  
BA 2062  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad  
HEREFORD





ST. LUKE'S U.M. CHURCH BA-2062  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain July 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
North and east facades from NE



ST. LUKE'S U.M. CHURCH BA 2062  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, JAN 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
West and rear facades from SW



ST. LUKE'S U.M. CHURCH BA-2062  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain July 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
North (main) facade from north



ST. LUKE'S U.M. CHURCH BA 2062  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, Jan. 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
Rear facade from south